

REMARKS

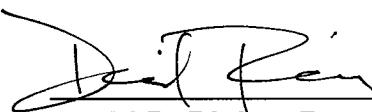
This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action December 13, 2007. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect to prosecute one of two “species” identified in the Office Action. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant respectfully elects to prosecute “Species I” related at least to claims 7-20, with traverse.

Applicant traverses the election requirement given that the two “species” identified by the Examiner are not in fact separate species of a common genus. In particular, “automated finishing” and “managing workflow” are *not* alternative actions that are *mutually exclusive* of each other. As provided in the MPEP, a requirement for restriction to a single species may be proper “*if* the species are mutually exclusive.” MPEP 806.04(f) (emphasis added).

As evidence of the fact that “automated finishing” and “managing workflow” are not mutually exclusive actions, Applicant notes that although the preamble of claim 1 expressly indicates that the claim is directed to “managing workflow”, claim 1 explicitly recites the action of “performing automated processing” of a print job, which may comprise finishing. Indeed, claim 1 originally recited “performing automated finishing” in the body of the claim. This clearly proves that “automated finishing” and “managing workflow” are not mutually exclusive species as, for example, a dog and a cat are mutually exclusive “species” of animals.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant traverses the restriction requirement and respectfully requests that the Examiner examine all of the pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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